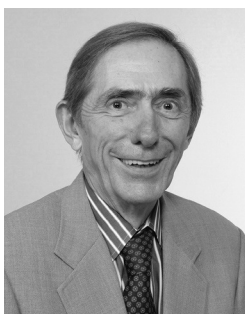


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雑誌名	駿河台大学論叢
号	35
ページ	vii-viii
発行年	2008
URL	http://doi.org/10.15004/00001065



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Before coming to Japan in 1977, I bought a house in York, Maine, a little over one hour north of Boston by car or train, and rented it out until 1990, when a friend of mine moved into the house; since then I have been able to return there during summer vacations, when I can enjoy gardening and spending time at the beach, which is only a ten-minute walk away. York is a picturesque and historic old Colonial town and a popular place for sight-seeing. Half a dozen faculty members from this university have visited me there during the summer, and I have enjoyed showing them around various places in the area.

In 1990, I was thinking of returning to the United States and considered a teaching position at the University of Southern Illinois, but in the meantime, through an introduction by Professor Paul Takei, who had the responsibility of recruiting professors to teach English-language courses at Surugadai University, I was offered a full-time tenured position here. This was a new, attractive, and well-equipped university and so I decided to accept this appointment. I am very grateful to Prof. Takei, not only for his introduction, but also to the interest he showed in my textbook on English pronunciation and to all his kindness and assistance during the time he was here; unfortunately he passed away several years ago and I was greatly saddened by his death because he was not only a colleague, he was a close friend. From the very beginning I also received assistance and important information about university procedures from other colleagues, such as Professors McCarthy, Morimoto (who is now teaching at Waseda University), and Nishikawa, to whom I would also like to express my appreciation, and especially to James Vardaman, whose understanding and advice I could always count on and who has remained one of my closest friends even after he left this university.

In 2001, I was hospitalized for six weeks with pneumonia and had to cancel classes for the Spring semester; then, in December, I was again hospitalized for several

weeks for congestive heart failure. I should like here to express my deepest gratitude to Prof. Onuki, who was very sympathetic and helpful during this difficult period; I should also like to thank all of my colleagues who visited me in the hospital, in particular Professors Amano and Tsukamoto, who were helpful in handling practical matters, such as bringing things from my home that I needed, as well as to Mr. Ninomiya, who was at the time supervisor of the Gendai Bunka Gakubu section of the Kyomuka, and whose constant help, including driving me to and from the hospital, deserves special thanks.

Now that I will be retiring at the end of next March, I will be returning permanently to my home in Maine. I will miss all of the people I have gotten to know well at this university, not only the colleagues mentioned above but others, such as Professors Sawazaki, Takenaka, Foulds, Fukuda, Kiyomi, Ikeno, Akashi, and Aoyama (the list would be too long to mention everyone) as well as all the staff members who have been so friendly and helpful. And, it goes without saying, I shall miss my students. I hope that in the future some of you from this university will have an opportunity to visit me in the United States; this is an open invitation to everyone and I look forward to offering you hospitality there.

People have been asking me what I'm going to do after I retire, as though I might have too much time on my hands. Well, the answer is that I shall continue to be involved in much the same activities that I am now occupied with during my free time: linguistic research, writing poetry, and music composition. The only difference is the hours I spend on scholarly research will probably gradually decrease as I finish works in progress and those I spend on music will increase. And, of course, as Voltaire said at the end of his work, *Candide*, "Let us all go cultivate our gardens." I'll have time then to do just that.